

SECTION: REMARKS

This reply is submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §132 and 37 C.F.R. §1.111. The Office Action was carefully considered by the undersigned attorney and applicant. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Summary of the Office Action.

Claims 1-21 were pending.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-13, 15-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Pawlos (4,971,609)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11, 17, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Keefer (4,968,329)

Claim 14 is objected to but found to contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 19 is allowed.

2. Discussion.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the finding of allowable subject matter in this application.

Claim 1. This claim was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated over Pawlos and Keefer. Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections. However, to expedite this case to finality, Applicants amended the claim to incorporate all of the limitations of dependent claim

14. Claim 14 was objected to, but was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (and any intervening claims). The amended claim is believed to be patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Applicants note that, amended claim 1 is a version of originally submitted dependent claim 14, merely rewritten in independent form. Thus, no limiting amendment is made and no limitation on the scope of the language of dependent claim 14 is intended or should be considered made. Dependent **claim 14** is cancelled in view of this amendment. Dependent **claims 15 and 16** are amended in view of the cancellation of claim 14.

Claim 20. This independent method claim was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated over Pawlos and Keefer. The claim is amended to add substantially all of the limitations of claim 14. The structure and function of the invention is not literally shown, suggested or made obvious by the applied references. These differences are patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Remaining Claims. The remaining dependent claims each adds at least one limitation to the elements of its base claim, and is therefore deemed to be allowable with such base and any intervening claim, at least for this reason.

3. Conclusion.

The claims pending after this amendment are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. The amendments are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed.

It is believed that this case is now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that telephone communication would advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to call at the number below.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a), provided a Petition is not submitted separately.

Please charge any fee due not paid by a check or credit card provided herewith, and/or charge any underpayment in any fee, and/or credit any overpayment in fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Any fees due are calculated as follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Fee</u>
TOTAL claims remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
INDEPENDENT claims remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
	SUM claim fees:	\$0
EXTENSION fees:		\$60
OTHER fees:		\$0
	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT (if any)</u>	\$60

☐ Paid by enclosed check.

☒ Paid by enclosed Credit Card Payment Form(s) PTO-2038.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 1-16-06

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REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicant(s) requests that a one (1) month extension be granted in which to file the attached communication from the applicant(s).

A \$ 60 payment, for a ☒ small ☐ large entity, is enclosed for the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17.

Please charge any additional or underpayment in fee due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 1-16-06

Joel D. Skinner, Jr.
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